

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1- 14 and 21-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 21 are independent. Claims 15 to 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection is inappropriate. "Optimistic editing models" sometimes referred to as "optimistic concurrency" are well known to those of skill in the art and require no description beyond that provided in the subject application. As will be readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art of the subject invention, the optimistic editing model does not result in data being locked automatically when accessed by a user as the system is "optimistic" that two or more users will not try to update the same data at exactly the same time. Data is locked only when actual updates to the data are made. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to prior art, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 14 and 21 to 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the publication entitled "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server" ("Exchange"). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objection in view of Exchange is not appropriate.

According to the Applicant's invention as defined by independent claim 1, Applicant provides a method for creating and managing a shared workspace in a network environment comprising the steps of creating a shared workspace accessible to participants of a scheduled meeting, categorizing data stored in the shared workspace and exposing the categorized data stored in the shared workspace to each participant of the scheduled meeting

accessing the shared workspace through a graphical user interface. The graphical user interface enables each participant to input data into appropriate categories of the shared workspace and edit categorized data exposed through the graphical user interface.

Exchange discloses an extensible platform for real-time online conferencing that allows users to schedule and join conferences. As described in Chapter 2 of Exchange, when a conference is scheduled, the conference management server creates a uniform resource locator (URL) for the conference. Conference attendees are able to use the URL to access the conference. The conference management service stores all scheduled conferences in a conference calendar mailbox. A data conferencing provider enables conference participants to share applications, conduct whiteboard sessions, transfer files, and chat.

Contrary to the Examiner's allegations, Exchange does NOT teach or suggest categorizing data stored in the shared workspace and exposing the categorized data stored in the shared workspace to each participant of the scheduled meeting accessing the shared workspace through a graphical user interface with the graphical user interface enabling each participant to input data into appropriate categories of the shared workspace and edit categorized data exposed through the graphical user interface. Exchange simply teaches sharing of applications, clipboard data and files. Data in Exchange is NOT stored in the shared workspace according to category and participants do not input data into appropriate categories or edit categorized data. As the Examiner will appreciate, Exchange therefore does not show each and every limitation recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon, distinguish patentably over Exchange and should be allowed.

Independent claim 21 defines a system for creating and managing a secure shared workspace for a scheduled meeting and recites subject matter analogous to that recited in

independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 and the claims dependent thereon, distinguish patentably over Exchange and should be allowed.

In view of the above, it is believed the application is in order for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

In view of the extended prosecution in this case, any telephone inquiry from the Examiner to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Applicant's attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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